

DODFORD WITH GRAFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the meeting of Dodford with Grafton Parish Council held on Monday 24 June 2019 in Dodford Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Lynne Griffin, Rachel Jennings (Chairman), Rory Lydon, Alwyn Rea, Scottie Sanderson and Jonathan Shapiro

In attendance: Clerk Kay Stone and 14 members of the public

1. Apologies

District Cllr Drew Beaumont gave his apology. County Councillor Shirley Webb is attending a School Governors meeting earlier and hopes to attend.

2. Declarations of interest

- i. Cllr Sanderson – item 8ii on the agenda
- ii. Cllr Sanderson – item 8ii on the agenda

3. Dispensations

Cllr Sanderson submitted a dispensation request to remain in the meeting whilst item 8ii was discussed. The Clerk read out the dispensation request and Councillors voted to accept the request for Cllr Sanderson to remain, but Cllr Rea asked that should a vote be held then Cllr Sanderson should leave the room. All agreed.

The meeting was adjourned for members of the public to raise matters of interest / items for the next agenda:

- Two members of the public expressed an interest in being allowed to speak under item 8ii on the agenda
- One member of the public expressed an interest in item 9i

The meeting reconvened as follows:

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 April 2019

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Shapiro, agreed by all and then signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 May 2019

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sanderson, agreed by all and then signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

6. Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 3 June 2019

Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Shapiro, agreed by all and then signed by the Chairman as being a true record.

7. Reports

- i. The monthly report from County Cllr Webb has been received, circulated and available at the meeting for residents.
- ii. No report received from District Cllr Beaumont and the Clerk was instructed to write to Cllr Beaumont to express their disappointment at not meeting him yet and to ask if he could send a monthly report if not able to attend.
- iii. No social media report.
- iv. The Clerk reported that
 - a. after consideration of responses received, Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has decided to withdraw the proposal for parking restrictions on Priory Road and Fockbury

Road. Instead, they will install white H-bar markings across the two footway vehicle crossings to Chelwood on Priory Road and across the entrance to the school car park on Fockbury Road. In addition, WCC is looking to install a length of footway in the verge on the northern side of Fockbury Road to the west of the junction with Priory Road. A new school warning sign will also be provided on the approach from Kidderminster Road. The proposed 30 mph speed limit will be pursued separately. The Clerk was asked to inform the residents who would have been affected by the parking restrictions proposal;

- b. WCC has a record of two more drainage problems reported as well as the Parish Council's reports since 2016.
- c. she had received reports of a static caravan on land in Fockbury Road opposite Oakfields. The Clerk to inform Bromsgrove District Council (BDC), and
- d. she has the SmartWater signs in her house. The Police wish to visit the area and look at where the SmartWater signs have been put up and the Clerk will let them know when this is done.

8. Planning

- i. Approval of the Planning Committee Meeting Minutes held on 15 May and 3 June was proposed by Cllr Rea and seconded by Cllr Griffin, agreed by all and then signed by the Chairman as being a true record.
- ii. **At this point the meeting was opened to the public to discuss resident's issues with the Parish Council's consultation on planning application 19/00413 at Tiggy Winkles, Bumble Hole Lane.**

Residents at the meeting were unhappy that they had not been consulted in time to attend a Parish Council planning committee meeting and put their points forward and wished to know what criteria the Parish Council had used to come to their decision. After much discussion, it emerged that the main complaint felt by the residents present at the meeting was their inability to respond to the consultation about Tiggy Winkles in time for the Parish Council's planning committee meeting on the subject. This was explored further, and it was agreed that there was an unreasonably short time between the issuing of the consultation papers by BDC, and its discussion at the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to discuss extending the minimum length of time between the receipt of planning application consultations from BDC and its discussion at the Parish Council planning committee meeting.

Announcement of planning committee meeting dates, as and when organised, will continue to be posted on the Parish Council web site, the Parish Council notice board outside the Village Hall and on Facebook. However, it was pointed out repeatedly that it was the responsibility of BDC to notify neighbouring residents about planning application consultations and to put up official notices at the property concerned.

It was pointed out by the Chairman that the Clerk only works eight hours per week and if unavailable any urgent concerns should be raised with BDC or WCC. The Clerk will reply to calls and emails within four working days and agreed to add this to the bottom of emails.

At this point the meeting was closed to the public and concerned residents left.

After discussion, it was agreed by Councillors that there should never be fewer than ten actual days between the opening of an application's consultation period and its discussion at the Parish Council planning committee meeting, to allow concerned residents enough time to lodge their views with the Parish Council, either by mail, email or in person at a Parish Council planning committee meeting.

Councillors also agreed that the Clerk needed to be protected from unwarranted and intrusive pressure from the public. To that end, it was agreed that the Clerk should be supplied with a telephone dedicated to Parish Council work and encouraged to ensure that this was only in use during appropriate working hours, with a 'Voicemail' message directing callers to BDC or WCC at other times.

- iii. No planning decisions received.
- iv. BDC has approved the ménage at Woodcote House Farm and no prior approval was required for the agricultural building at Greenfields, Worcester Road, Upton Warren.
- v. No planning appeals or decisions have been received

- vi. No new enforcement or environmental issues.
- vii. The Parish Council Planning committee meeting due to be held on Wednesday 26 June to be postponed to a date nearer 7 July. The Clerk announced she will not be able to attend. The current Parish Plan / Village Design Statement issued in 2003 is out of date and will be discussed at the July meeting.

9. Highways and footpaths

- i. Peter Churchill has kindly offered to conduct a comprehensive survey of users of Yarnold Lane such as cyclists, lorries, cars, horse riders, walkers and dog walkers. The Clerk was instructed to contact BDC to request they consult the Parish Council when they are consulted on any future Operators Licenses. The Clerk to write to CPRE giving the Parish Council's experience of not being consulted by the Traffic Area Office.
- ii. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has received one objection to the suggestion of white gates at the village entrances. The Clerk to contact Bournheath Clerk to see how much the final cost of their gates was and report back. It was decided that the grant from County Cllr Webb's divisional funding would fund the first set of gates and when the Public Works Loan is paid off next year, then two more sets of gates can be purchased. In the meantime, the Clerk to ask WCC Highways through Cllr Webb if they are happy for the first set of gates to be set up close to the cobbles in Fockbury Road coming from Kidderminster Road.
- iii. It was brought to the Parish Council's attention that the white slow down painted signs on the road become slippery in wet conditions which causes concern for horse riders and cyclists. The Clerk to go back to Cllr Webb and ask WCC where they suggest is safe for road users.
- iv. David Banks is happy to walk the woods with the Parish Council and residents but suggests waiting until he has numbered the trees for the year 2 felling this Autumn and Winter. The Clerk to return to David Banks and ask him to advise the Parish Council when this will be possible and before the felling commences. As the vista has improved where year 1 felling took place the Clerk is to ask David Banks if he can ask the landowners if they are willing to give a permissive right of way through the new clearing for walkers to enjoy the new views.
- v. The trip fence is still to be erected on the piece of land on the corner of Priory Road and Warbage Lane, but the Parish Council had already been advised this may be done in July or August.
- vi. The resurfacing of the footpath in Warbage Lane was renewed due to drainage work done in the area by the Old Chapel. Priory Road is still on WCC advisory list.
- vii. Safer Roads Partnership (SFP) has said that speed data taken west of the Crossroads on Kidderminster Road with a mean speed of 46.9mph and the 85th percentile figure recorded being 53mph is below the enforcement threshold for a 50mph speed limit. SFP will not be directing enforcement at this location. The Clerk to go back to SFP to say there is not a speed issue but a safety issue due to dangerous overtaking over the white lines at this junction.
- viii. There is still concern that people who have walked footpaths for several years and complete a form their name will be in the public domain as WCC has said that this is not covered by GDPR. This item to remain on the agenda for the time being.
- ix. The phone box is still to be measured.
- x. The Parish Council is grateful for the verge masters in Alfred's Well but feel they are out of keeping with the area and the Clerk to ask for confirmation from Cllr Webb that these will not be used on the grass area at the corner of Warbage Lane and Priory Road. The condition of the ground behind the verge masters may recover during the summer and a decision will be taken in the Autumn whether there is a need for topsoil and seeding.

10. Dodford Day – Sunday 30 June

Penny Lydon offered to put details on Dodford Facebook page regarding timings and Cllr Shapiro to draft a document to send to her. The event starts unofficially at 12 noon with an adult and a child's Treasure Hunt taking place at 1.30pm. Between 3pm and 4.30pm there will be a free Strawberry Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall and from 6pm onwards entertainment in the field at the Dodford Inn. The owners of the Dodford Inn have erected a marquee in case it rains. The event closes at 9pm.

11. Parish Council Grants

To be deferred to July meeting.

12. Catshill Library

No representations from residents to support Catshill Library.

13. Phil Richardson Community Award 2019

Two nominations received and a request for a form received last week. The Parish Council to debate whether to change the criteria next year to allow a group to be nominated.

14. Worcestershire County Council Minerals Local Plan Fourth Stage Consultation

Cllr Rea had read the consultation report document and confirmed Dodford does not appear. The Parish Council has acknowledged the publication.

15. Bromsgrove District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Penalty Point Scheme

Cllr Lydon had read the document and it was agreed the penalties looked lenient and would suggest putting through the following changes:

7. Failure to provide fire extinguisher – Increase points from 3 to 4
17. Failing to keep appropriate records of bookings – Increase points from 4 to 6
18. Failing to notify the Council of a change of name or address – Increase points from 3 to 4
21. Failing to produce insurance certificate to officer on request – Increase points from 4 to 6
22. Failing to produce vehicle for inspection on request – Increase points from 4 to 6
24. Causing or permitting any vehicle other than a hackney carriage to wait on a hackney carriage stand – Decrease points from 4 to 3
26. Obstructing an authorised officer or constable – Increase points from 3 to 4
27. Failing to comply with a requirement properly made by an authorised officer or constable – Increase points from 3 to 4
29. Using vehicle horn otherwise than in accordance with the rule 112 of the Highway Code – Decrease points from 3 to 2
30. Allowing smoking in a licensed vehicle – Increase points from 3 to 6
31. Smoking in a licensed vehicle – Increase points from 3 to 6
32. Parking a vehicle in an illegal or dangerous position – Increase points from 3 to 4

16. Rural Super-fast Broadband

According to the Sunday Times article there may be vouchers from the Government available for households and small businesses in rural areas.

17. Septic Tank Discharge

The Clerk to make residents aware through the Parish Magazine, the email communication list and Facebook that septic tanks with soakaways, or that discharge into water courses, must be fitted with a drainage field, which is the only compliant discharge system after January 2020.

18. Finance

- i. The March Financial Report:
 - Deposit account as at 29 May 2019 - £15,701.53
 - Current account as at 29 May 2019 - £893.71
 - Payments by bank transfer for June – Acceptance proposed by Cllr Jennings and seconded by Cllr Lydon:
 - a. Clerk's salary - £364.86
 - b. Clerk's expenses - £109.96 (Use of telephone and internet £5; storage £5; travel 26 miles @ 45p/mile £11.70; paper £3.59; black printer ink £26.67; colour and black printer ink £58.00)
 - c. HM Revenue and Customs - £91.00
 - d. Lengthsman – duties for May plus petrol - £210.00

19. Correspondence received – for information

Correspondence received was noted and the Clerk was asked to forward on information on WCC's Community Solutions Fund to Dodford Village Hall Committee, Dodford Holiday Farm and the School.

20. Councillors items

- a. Cllr Shapiro has been invited to sit on the Board of Governors for Dodford School.
- b. Although not a Parish Councillor, Scott Fuller who is path officer and tree warden for the Parish Council spoke on the series of courses he has been on in his role of tree warden particularly an emergency course on Ash die back. As soon as he has more information he will pass on to the Clerk for circulation to the residents.

The meeting was closed at 9.50pm

Signed.....Chairman